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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/786,089	02/26/2004	Hiroaki Ono	501.33506CX6	4245

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EXAMINER

FIELDS, COURTNEY D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2137

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/06/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-4 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The Information Disclosure Statement respectfully submitted on 26 February 2004 has been considered by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McWhirter et al. (US Patent No. 4,477,848).

Referring to the rejection of claim 1, McWhirter et al. discloses a recording/reproducing apparatus for recording a transmitted signal onto a recording medium and for reproducing the recorded signal from the recording medium, comprising:

a recorder which records the transmitted signal by a recording/reproducing head onto a recording medium (See Column 5, lines 59-68, Column 6, lines 1-16)

a reproducer which reproduces the recorded signal by a recording/reproducing head from the recording medium and outputs the reproduced signal (See Column 6, lines 17-33)

and a disabling circuit which disables the signal recorded on the recording medium by a recording/reproducing head (See Column 13, lines 9-22)

wherein the transmitted signal is scrambled using key code and restricted to be copied (See Column 5, lines 18-31)

and said reproducer descrambles the reproduced signal using the key code and outputs the descrambled signal after adding information to restrict copying and said disabling circuit disables the signal which has been reproduced (See Column 7, lines 20-30)

Referring to the rejection of claim 2, McWhirter et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the disabling circuit erases at least a portion of said signal recorded on said recording medium (See Column 13, lines 9-22)

Referring to the rejection of claim 3, McWhirter et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the disabling circuit rewrites another signal at least a portion of said signal recorded on said recording medium (See Column 13, lines 9-17)

Referring to the rejection of claim 4, McWhirter et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein disabling circuit disables within a predetermined time after said reproducer reproduces the recorded signal on the recording medium (See Column 12, lines 59-68, Column 13, lines 1-4)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Courtney D. Fields whose telephone number is 571-272-3871. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs. 6:00 - 4:00 pm; off every Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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April 1, 2007

Matthew B. Smithers
MATTHEW SMITHERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 2137